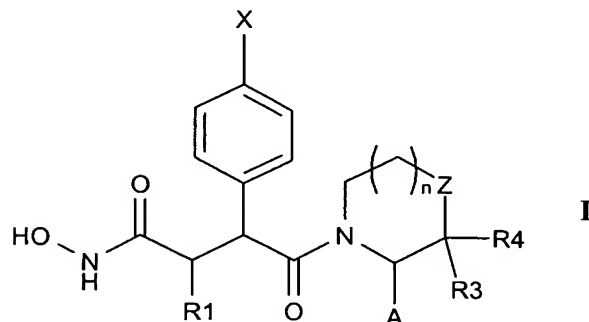


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A compound of Formula I



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl each of which is independently optionally substituted by hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl-lower alkoxy;

X is halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-substituted lower alkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl-lower alkyl, hydroxy, -OR<sub>5</sub>, SR<sub>5</sub> or -NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl-lower alkoxy

wherein

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl  
and

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are independently H, lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl;

Z is -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CHR<sub>8</sub>-, -O-, -S-, or -N(R<sub>8</sub>)-

wherein

R<sub>8</sub> is H, lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl lower alkoxy carbonyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>aryloxy carbonyl, each of which is independently optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>aryl-lower alkoxy ;

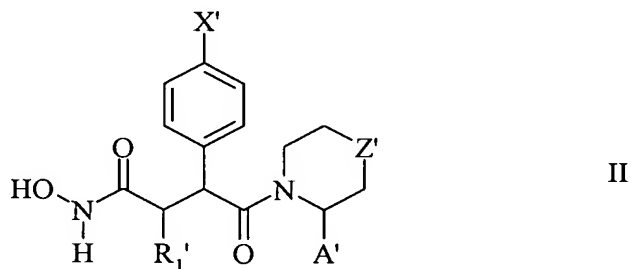
A is hydrogen, -CR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>-Q-R<sub>12</sub>, -C(O)-Q-R<sub>12</sub> or -C(S)-Q-R<sub>12</sub>

wherein

R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are independently H, lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl each of which is independently optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl-lower alkoxy,

Q is  $-NR_8-$ ,  $-S-$  or  $-O-$ , where  $R_8$  is as defined above, and  
 $R_{12}$  is lower alkyl  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl-lower alkyl, each optionally substituted by hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkoxy,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl-lower alkoxy; and  
 $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is Hydrogen or lower alkyl; and  
 $n$  is 0 or 1,  
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable and -cleavable ester thereof or acid addition salts thereof.

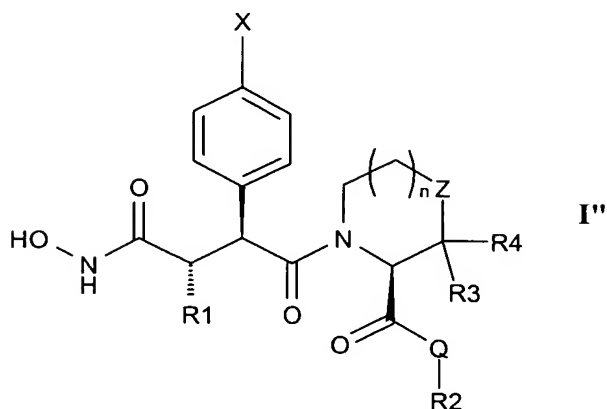
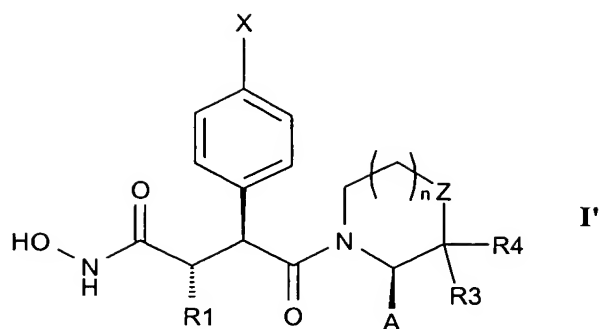
2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 of formula II



wherein

$R_1'$  is H, lower alkyl or  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl -lower alkoxy;  
 $X'$  is halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-substituted lower alkyl or lower alkoxy, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy or lower alkoxy;  
 $Z'$  is  $-CH_2-$  or  $-N(R'_8)-$  wherein  $R'_8$  is H, lower alkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl (optionally substituted by halogen), lower alkoxy carbonyl or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryloxy carbonyl;  
 $A'$  is H or  $-C(O)-Q'-R_{12}'$  wherein  $Q'$  is  $-S-$  or  $-O-$  and  $R_{12}'$  is lower alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$  cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl, each optionally substituted by hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl, or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl,  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable and cleavable ester thereof or acid addition salts thereof.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1 of formula I' or formula II'



wherein the symbols are as defined above.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:
  - 3(S)-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-2(S)-ethyl-N-hydroxy-4-morpholin-4-yl-4-oxo-butyramide;
  - 2(R)-Benzyloxymethyl-4-[4-(4-chloro-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-N-hydroxy-3(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-4-oxo-butyramide;
  - 2(R)-Benzyloxymethyl-N-hydroxy-3(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-4-oxo-4-piperidin-1-yl-butyramide,
  - N-Hydroxy-2(R)-hydroxymethyl-3(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-4-oxo-4-piperidin-1-yl-butyramide;
  - (S)-4-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-3-isobutylcarbamoyl-piperazine-1-carboxylic acid .tert.-butyl ester;
  - (S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid isobutyl-amide trifluoro-acetate;
  - 1-[4-Benzyloxy-3(R)-hydroxycarbamoyl-2(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-butyryl]-piperidine-2(S)-carboxylic acid methylamide;
  - 1-[4-Hydroxy-3(R)-hydroxycarbamoyl-2(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-butyryl]-piperidine-2(S)-carboxylic acid methylamide;
  - 1-[3(S)-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2(S)-carboxylic acid methylamide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-3-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid cyclopropylamide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-3-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-ethyl)-amide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-3-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (4-hydroxy-cyclohexyl)-amide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-3-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-3-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (4-fluoro-phenyl)-amide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid isopropylamide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid cyclopropylamide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (3-isopropoxy-propyl)-amide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (4-hydroxy-cyclohexyl)-amide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide;

(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid phenylamide;

1-[3(S)-Hydroxycarbamoyl-2(S)-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-pentanoyl]-pyrrolidine-2(S)-carboxylic acid phenylamide;

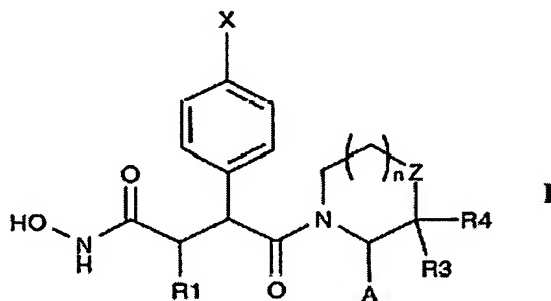
(S)-1-[(2S,3S)-2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxycarbamoyl-pentanoyl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid ((S)-2-hydroxy-propyl)-amide.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable and cleavable ester thereof of acid addition salts thereof.

5. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting production of soluble TNF, ~~inhibiting matrix metalloproteinase activity, or of reducing inflammation~~ in a subject in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
6. (cancelled)
7. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

8. (cancelled)
9. (original) A method of inhibiting neuropathic pain in a subject in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
10. (cancelled)
11. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I

54



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl each of which is independently optionally substituted by hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl-lower alkoxy;

X is halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-substituted lower alkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl-lower alkyl, hydroxy, -OR<sub>5</sub>, SR<sub>5</sub> or -NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl-lower alkoxy

wherein

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl and

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are independently H, lower alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>heterocycloalkyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>aryl;

Z is -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CHR<sub>8</sub>-, -O-, -S-, or -N(R<sub>8</sub>)-

wherein

$R_8$  is H, lower alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{18}$ heterocycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl lower alkoxy, carbonyl or  $C_4$ - $C_8$ aryloxy, carbonyl, each of which is independently optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or  $C_4$ - $C_8$ aryl-lower alkoxy ;

A is hydrogen,  $-CR_{10}R_{11}-Q-R_{12}$ ,  $-C(O)-Q-R_{12}$  or  $-C(S)-Q-R_{12}$

wherein

$R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  are independently H, lower alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{18}$ heterocycloalkyl or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl each of which is independently optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, lower alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkyl-lower alkoxy, or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$  aryl-lower alkoxy,

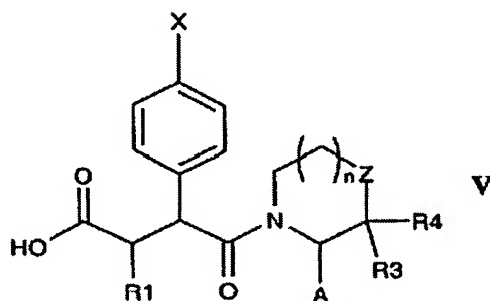
Q is  $-NR_8-$ ,  $-S-$  or  $-O-$ , where  $R_8$  is as defined above, and

$R_{12}$  is lower alkyl  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl-lower alkyl, each optionally substituted by hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ cycloalkoxy,  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl or  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$ aryl-lower alkoxy; and

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  is Hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

n is 0 or 1,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable and -cleavable ester thereof or acid addition salts thereof which process comprises converting a corresponding free carboxylic acid derivative of formula V



wherein the symbols are as for Formula I, to the corresponding hydroxamic acid derivative of formula I.

12. (new) A method of inhibiting matrix metalloproteinase activity in a subject in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
13. (new) A method of reducing inflammation in a subject in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

14. (new) A method of inducing immunosuppression in a subject in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
15. (new) A method of preventing, ameliorating, or treating neuropathic pain in a subject in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.